

HOMWORK POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school on 8311 5200 and ask for the relevant Student Coordinators who will organise an interpreter.

PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Sunshine College policy requirements relating to homework.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Sunshine College.

RATIONALE

At Sunshine College we know that students thrive when provided with a range of experiences and learning opportunities. We know that students and families thrive when they balance their academic achievements by including a range of recreational, family, and cultural activities into their daily life. We know that homework works best when it is purposeful and relevant and complements the curriculum taught in class.

Sunshine College has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the School Council to support student learning and wellbeing by:

- providing opportunities for students to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills
- providing opportunities for students to apply new knowledge
- providing opportunities for students to prepare for future lessons
- providing homework which is differentiated and appropriate to the student's skill level
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers.

DEFINITIONS

Homework is tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

POLICY

At Sunshine College all homework set by teachers will be:

- purposeful

- curriculum-aligned
- differentiated and appropriate to students' skill level and age
- designed to help students develop as independent learners
- monitored by the teacher
- where appropriate, provide opportunities for parents/carers to partner in their child's learning.
- balanced with other studies to avoid unreasonable workloads

At Sunshine College we encourage families to create a home environment in which children are given a regular opportunity to engage in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. We encourage families to develop a shared reading regime where students read a *just-right* book or parents/guardians read stories to their children on a regular basis. An aspirational target of at least 20-minutes, four times per week would be desirable.

At Sunshine College, we believe it is important for young adults to lead a healthy balanced lifestyle as many of the habits developed in adolescence follow young people into their adult life. We know that student learning is supported by balancing one's academic achievements by including a range of recreational, family, and cultural activities into their daily life. Therefore, the amount of homework set each week in years 7 to 10 is minimal and begins with around 30 minutes per week in year 7 and increases to approximately 1 hour per week in year 10.

The amount of homework allocated in Years 11 and 12 will be comparatively larger than that provided to students in Years 7 to 10. However, due to the complex nature of post-compulsory schooling each certificate and each subject has its own specific requirements regarding homework expectations. It is essential that students, parents, and carers familiarise themselves with these requirements to ensure successful completion.

Sunshine College will ensure that homework set is within the capability of the student and that support will be provided throughout the school and afterschool to give students every opportunity to be successful.

The types of homework that teachers at Sunshine College will include are:

- making or designing an artwork
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising sports skills
- practising words/phrases learnt in a language other than English
- reading English texts prior to class discussion
- completing consolidation activities
- reading for pleasure
- researching topics associated with set class work
- revising/preparing for tests
- applying new skills to home context such as:
 - planning and cooking food, including following a recipe
 - helping to plan a day trip or holiday, including timings, directions, and costs
 - growing plants
 - reviewing their favourite film or book
 - writing a diary entry

- engaging with parents in learning activities such as:
 - rehearsing a presentation with parent/carers, and seeking their feedback
 - interviewing a family member as part of a research project.

SHARED EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Homework is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students, and their parents/carers. In order to get the most out of homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders at Sunshine College** are to:

- advise teachers, students, and parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the homework policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Sunshine College** are to:

- set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- ensure homework tasks are purposeful – this means they are deliberately designed and planned to support student learning (so, they are not 'busy work' or where students 'finish off' work they did/could not complete in class)
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback
- ensure the amount of homework set supports a student to engage with a range of recreational, family, and cultural activities outside of school hours
- offer opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- discussing homework expectations with their parents/carers
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- following up on comments made by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities, and part-time employment (for older students).

Responsibilities and expectations for **parents/carers** are:

- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family, and cultural activities
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home,
- in dialogue, linking homework to:
 - previous experiences the child and/or parent/carer may have had
 - family culture(s), history(ies) and language(s)
 - relevant services, clubs, associations, and community.
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Sunshine College understands that students have different learning strengths, preferences and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If parents/carers are

concerned their child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage parents/carers to speak to their child's teacher.

Sunshine College will develop a regular homework support program for students and will advertise this to students, parents, and carers on a regular basis.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Discussed at student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2022
Consultation	This policy was developed in consultation with Sunshine College Learning Specialists June 2022
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	June 2026